Numb. 130

The TATLER.

By *Iſaac Bickerſtaff* Eſq;

At me
Cum magnis vixiſſe invita fatebitur uſque
Invidia. ——— Hor.

From *Saturday February* 4. to *Tueſday February* 7. 1709.

Sheer-Lane, February 6.

I FIND ſome of the moſt polite *Latin* Authors, who wrote at a Time when *Rome* was in its Glory, ſpeak with a certain noble Vanity of the Brightneſs and Splendour of the Age in which they lived. *Pliny* often compliments his Emperor *Trajan* upon this Head; and when he would animate him to any Thing great, or diſſwade him from any Thing that was improper, he inſinuates, that it is befitting or unbecoming (the *Claritas & Nitor Seculi*) that Period of Time which was made illuſtrious by his Reign. When we caſt our Eyes back on the Hiſtory of Mankind, and trace them through their ſeveral Succeſſions to their firſt Original, we ſometimes ſee them breaking out in great and memorable Actions, and towring up to the utmoſt Heights of Virtue and Knowledge; when, perhaps, if we carry our Obſervation to a little Diſtance, we ſee them ſunk into Sloth and Ignorance, and altogether loſt in Darkneſs and Obſcurity. Sometimes the whole Species is aſleep for Two or Three Generations, and then again awakens into Action, flouriſhes, in Heroes, Philoſophers, and Poets, who do Honour to human Nature, and leave ſuch Tracts of Glory behind them, as diſtinguiſh the Years, in which they acted their Part, from the ordinary Courſe of Time.

Methinks a Man cannot, without a ſecret Satisfaction, conſider the Glory of the preſent Age, which will ſhine as bright as any other in the Hiſtory of Mankind. It is ſtill big with great Events, and has already produced Changes and Revolutions which will be as much admired by Poſterity, as any that have happened in the Days of our Fathers, or in the old Times before them. We have ſeen Kingdoms divided and united, Monarchs erected and depoſed, Nations transfer'd from one Sovereign to another; Conquerors raiſed to ſuch a Greatneſs as has given a Terror to *Europe*, and thrown down by ſuch a Fall, as has moved their Pity.

But it is ſtill a more pleaſing View to an *Engliſhman*, to ſee his own Country give the chief Influence to ſo illuſtrious an Age, and ſtand in the ſtrongeſt Point of Light amidſt the diffuſed Glory that ſurrounds it.

If we begin with Learned Men, we may obſerve, to the Honour of our Country, That thoſe who make the greateſt Figure in moſt Arts and Sciencies, are univerſally allowed to be of the *Britiſh* Nation; and what is more remarkable, That Men of the greateſt Learning are among the Men of the greateſt Quality.

A Nation may indeed abound with Perſons of ſuch uncommon Parts and Worth, as may make them rather a Misfortune than a Bleſſing to the Publick. Thoſe who ſingly might have been of infinite Advantage to the Age they live in, may, by riſing up together in the ſame Criſis of Time, and by interfering in their Purſuits of Honour, rather interrupt than promote the Service of their Country. Of this we have a famous Inſtance in the Republick of *Rome*, when *Cæſar*, *Pompey*, *Cato*, *Cicero*, and *Brutus*, endeavoured to recommend themſelves at the ſame Time to the Admiration of their Contemporaries. Mankind was not able to provide for ſo many extraordinary Perſons at once, or find out Poſts ſuitable to their Ambition and Abilities. For this Reaſon, they were all as miſerable in their Deaths, as they were famous in their Lives, and occaſioned, not only the Ruin of each other, but alſo that of the Commonwealth.

It is therefore a particular Happineſs to a People, when the Men of ſuperior Genius and Character are ſo juſtly diſpoſed in the high Places of Honour, that each of them moves in a Sphere which is proper to him, and requires thoſe particular Qualities in which he excels.

If I ſee a General commanding the Forces of his Country, whoſe Victories are not to be parallel'd in Story, and who is as famous for his Negotiations as his Victories; and at the ſame Time ſee the Management of a Nation's Treaſury in the Hands of one who has always diſtinguiſhed himſelf by a generous Contempt of his own private Wealth, and an exact Frugality of that which belongs to the Publick; I cannot but think a People under ſuch an Adminiſtration may promiſe themſelves Conqueſt Abroad, and Plenty at Home. If I were to wiſh for a proper Perſon to preſide over the publick Councils, it ſhould certainly be one as much admired for his univerſal Knowledge of Men and Things, as for his Eloquence, Courage and Integrity, in the exerting of ſuch extraordinary Talents.

Who is not pleaſed to ſee a Perſon in the higheſt Station in the Law, who was the moſt eminent in his Profeſſion, and the moſt accompliſhed Orator at the Bar? Or at the Head of the Fleet a Commander, under whoſe Conduct the Common Enemy received ſuch a Blow, as he has never been able to recover?

Were we to form to our ſelves the Idea of one whom we ſhould think proper to govern a diſtant Kingdom, conſiſting chiefly of thoſe who differ from us in Religion, and are influenced by foreign Politicks, would it not be ſuch a one as had ſignalized himſelf by an uniform and unſhaken Zeal for the Proteſtant Intereſt, and by his Dexterity in defeating the Skill and Artifice of its Enemies. In ſhort, if we find a great Man popular for his Honeſty and Humanity, as well as famed for his Learning and great Skill in all

all the Languages of *Europe*, or a Perſon eminent for thoſe Qualifications which make Men ſhine in publick Aſſemblies, or for that Steadineſs, Conſtancy, and good Senſe, which carry a Man to the deſired Point through all the Oppoſition of Tumult and Prejudice, we have the Happineſs to behold them all in Poſts ſuitable to their Characters.

Such a Conſtellation of great Perſons, if I may ſo ſpeak, while they ſhine out in their own diſtinct Capacities, reflect a Luſtre upon each other, but in a more particular Manner on their Sovereign, who has placed them in thoſe proper Situations, by which their Virtues become ſo beneficial to all Her Subjects. It is the Anniverſary of the Birth-day of this Glorious Queen, which naturally led me into this Field of Contemplation, and inſtead of joining in the publick Exultations that are made on ſuch Occaſions, to entertain my Thoughts with the more ſerious Pleaſure of ruminating upon the Glories of her Reign.

While I beheld her ſurrounded with Triumphs, and adorned with all the Proſperity and Succeſs which Heaven ever ſhed on a Mortal, and ſtill conſidering her ſelf as ſuch, tho' the Perſon appears to me exceeding great that has thoſe juſt Honours paid to her; yet I muſt confeſs, ſhe appears much greater in that ſhe receives them with ſuch a glorious Humility, and ſhows ſhe has no further Regard for them, than as they ariſe from theſe great Events which have made her Subjects happy. For my own Part, I muſt confeſs, when I ſee private Virtues in ſo high a Degree of Perfection, I am not aſtoniſhed at any extraordinary Succeſs that attends them, but look upon publick Triumphs as the natural Conſequences of religious Retirements.

ADVERTISEMENT.

Finding ſome Perſons have miſtaken Paſquin *who was mentioned in my laſt, for one who has been pilloried at* Rome, *I muſt here advertize them, That it is only a mutined Statue ſo called, on which the private Scandal of that City is generally paſted.* Morſorio *is a Perſon of the ſame Quality, who is uſually made to anſwer whatever is publiſhed by the other: The Wits of that Place, like too many of our own Country, taking Pleaſure in ſetting innocent People together by the Ears. The Mentioning of this Perſon, who is a great Wit, and a great Cripple, put me in Mind of Mr.* Eaſtcourt, *who is under the ſame Circumſtances. He was formerly my Apothecary, and being at preſent diſabled by the Gout and Stone, I muſt recommend him to the Publick on* Thurſday *next, that admirable Play of* Ben. Johnſon's, *called,* The Silent Woman, *being appointed to be acted for his Benefit. It would be indecent for me to appear twice in a Seaſon at theſe ludicrous Diverſions; but as I always give my Man and my Maid one Day in the Year, I ſhall allow them this, and am promiſed by Mr.* Eaſtcourt, *my ingenious Apothecary, that they ſhall have a Place kept for them in the firſt Row of the Middle Gallery.*

Errata. *In the laſt; inſert the following Motto, which was overlooked by the Printer.*

Ingenio Manus eſt & Corvix cæſa. *Juv.*

Col. 2. Line 16. *For* Oration, *read* Ovation.

Advertiſements.

*** PROPOSALS for Printing the LUCUBRATIONS of Iſaac Bickerſtaff Eſq; by Subſcriptions, in Two Volumes in Octavo, on a Large Character, and Fine Royal Paper, are to be ſeen, and Subſcriptions taken, at Charles Lillie's, a Perfumer, at the Corner of Beauford Buildings in the Strand, and John Morphew's near Stationers-Hall.

MEn's *Morning Gowns, of rich Silks, Stuffs, Calicoes, &c. (being the Goods of a Perſon that failed) to be diſpoſed of at very low Rates; may be ſeen at the Olive-Tree and Still within three Doors of Young Man's Coffee-houſe, againſt the Horſe at Charing-Croſs. The Prices being ſet on each Gown. Catalogues of the Particulars may be had at the Place of Sale.*

*** Appendix Librorum ſub Stephanorum Nominibus impreſſorum, may be had Gratis, on large or ſmall Paper, by all Gentlemen, &c. (who have Hiſtoria de Vitis Stephanorum,) of Chr. Bateman at the Bible and Crown in Pater-noſter-Row, N. B. Tis preſumed this will not be PIRATED, for the Benefit of the Poor.

Juſt publiſh'd, the Second Edition of

*** The Memoirs of the Marquis de Langallerie. Containing an Account of the moſt ſecret Intrigues of the French, Spaniſh, and Bavarian Courts; and the moſt remarkable Battles, Sieges, and Encampments, in Germany, Spain, and Flanders. Together with the moſt conſiderable Treaties and Alliances made with France, from the Year 1687. to the Year 1710. Intermix'd with ſeveral Original private Letters (never before made publick, written by the French King, Card. Portocarrero, Duke of Anjou, Elector of Bavaria, Marquis de Torcy, Charles III. of Spain, Prince Eugene, Duke of Marlborough, Duke of Ormond, Monſ. Auverquerque, &c. Tranſlated from the French, and continued to this preſent Time. Printed for J. Round at Seneca's-Head in Change Alley, N. Cliff at the Golden Candleſtick in Cheapſide, and ſold by A. Collins at the Black-Boy in Fleet-ſtreet, and R. Halſey at the Plow in Cornhil.

To Morrow will be publiſh'd at 6 d. each,

*** Bibliotheca Wichiana: Being a Catalogue of the Library of the late Hon. Sir Cyrill Wich, conſiſting of the moſt valuable Authors, in Philoſophical, Philological, Hiſtorical, Geographical, Claſſical, and Critical Learning. Lexicographers, Medaliſts, Books of Antiquity, Sculpture and Painting, in moſt Languages, and of the beſt Editions. Printed from his Original MSS. and digeſted under proper Heads, will be ſold by Auction the 20th Inſtant in the inner lower Walk of Exeter-Exchange in the Strand, by Richard Smith, and Edmund Curll at the Dial and Bible againſt St. Dunſtan's Church in Fleet-ſtreet, where may be had, Mr. Hoadly's Defence of the Foundation of the preſent Government. Price 1 s. 6 d. bound.

On Saturday laſt was publiſhed,

*** The Earl of Torrington's Speech to the Houſe of Commons in November 1690, occaſioned by the Engagement at Sea on the 30th of June that Year, between the Confederate and French Fleets. To which is prefixed, a Draught of the Line of Battel, curiouſly engraven on Copper. Price 1 s. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-noſter-Row.

MR. Geo. Shelley, at the Hand and Pen in Warwick Lane, being choſen Writing-Maſter to Chriſt's Hoſpital, John Clark (Author of the Penman's Diverſion) from the Hand and Pen in Wood-ſtreet, now ſucceeds him in his Houſe and Buſineſs; who there expeditiouſly teaches, Writing, Arithmetick, Merchants Accounts, Short Hand, and ſeveral Parts of the Mathematicks. Youth may board, or be taught abroad.

TO be ſeen daily at the Duke of Marlborough's Head in Fleet-ſtreet, a new Moving Picture, drawn by the beſt Hand, with great Variety of curious Motions and Figures, which form a moſt agreeable Proſpect. It has the general Approbation of all who ſee it, and far exceeds the Original formerly ſhewn at the ſame Place. N. B. This Picture was never expoſed to publick View before the Beginning of the preſent Year 1710.

THeſe are to acquaint the Lovers of Art, That there is an extraordinary Collection of Italian Drawings and Prints of the moſt eminent Painters and Gravers to be ſold by Hand, the loweſt Price being ſet on the Back-ſide of each; ſo that all Gentlemen will at Sight be informed of the Value. Note, that if any Perſon has either fine Drawings, Prints, Pictures, or other Rarities, they may be diſpoſed of in the ſame Manner, paying Poundage for ſuch as are ſold. There is conſtant Attendance from 10 of the Clock in the Morning to 5 in the Afternoon, at the Houſe on the Right Hand going up to the Houſe of Lords in the Old Palace-yard, Weſtminſter.

*** A Review of the Caſe of Liturgies, and their Impoſition. In Anſwer to Mr. Bennet's Brief Hiſtory of precompoſ'd Set Forms of Prayer; And his Diſcourſe of Joint Prayer. By Benjamin Robinſon, Miniſter of the Gospel. Printed for J. Clark at the Bible and Crown in the Old-[illegible]ge.

BArtlett of Goodman's-fields, who has been ſo ſucceſsful in the Cure of Ruptures, by Steel Spring Truſſes (with Joints or without) ſo wonderfully light and eaſy, that one of the largeſt Size ſeldom exceeds 4 Ounces in Weight, and one of the ſmalleſt rarely exceeds a Quarter of an Ounce. He is to be ſpoke with in the Forenoons every Day at his Houſe at the Golden Ball by the Ship Tavern in Preſcot-ſtreet, Goodman's-fields, London; the Afternoons, at the Golden Ball and Naked Boy over-againſt Cheapſide-Connuit near St. Paul's. N. B. For Privacy, he will attend any Gentleman at any Place near the Places and Hours above-mentioned. Thoſe who live in the Country, may be ſupplied by ſending Letters. His Mother, the Widow of the late Mr. Chriſtopher Bartlett, lives at his Houſe in Goodman's-fields above-mentioned, who is very skilful in the Buſineſs to thoſe of her own Sex.

*** Field's Bible, and all other Sorts and Sizes of Bibles and Common-Prayers, fit for Churches and Families, ruled or unruled, and in all Sorts of Binding, viz. Right Shagreen, red and blue Turky, Ruſſia Leather, &c. Mr. Stutt's Cuts, curiouſly engraven, with all other Sorts of Cuts either for Bibles or Common-Books of Prayers; the Sacrament and Devotion, bound with the Common-Prayer or ſingle; Tate and Brady's new Pſalms, with the new Supplement; Burket on the New Teſtament, in Folio, the fourth and laſt Edition; the Lord Clarendon's Hiſtory of the Rebellion, &c. Wincheſter Manual; a new Britiſh Spelling-Book; Young's Spelling-Book; and Dr. Williams and Lewis's Catechiſm, for the Uſe of Charity-Schools, by Wholeſale or Retale, at reaſonable Rates. Caſes for Letters or Bills. Stains and Ink are likewiſe taken out of Books of Value, and Books neatly bound and gilt, by J. Hazard at the Golden Bible in Stationers Court near the Hall within Ludgate.